In the Specification

Please amend the equation at page 4, line 13, as follows:

$$Ts \sim \left(\sum_{K=1}^{n} K * A(K) \right) / \sum_{K=1}^{n} A(K),$$

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, as follows:

Fig. 6 shows an envelope ~~a typical~~ curve 6 of u/s signal (A0, B0) correlated with pulse-width modulated signal K_1, and signal K_2~~the signal focal point as a function of the threshold voltage/signal amplitude ration~~; and

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17, as follows:

The receiver unit 4 (FIG. 2) also determines the time t_1 [[t_o]]of the maximum signal amplitude Amp_{max} and the time difference Δt between the reception time t_o and the time t_1. (Alternatively, the time of a different characteristic value, e.g. the time of the envelope curve 6 focal point, can also be determined as the reference time t_1.)

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 23 of page 7 as follows:

According to a preferred embodiment form of the present invention, a focal point T_s of the envelope curve 6 ~~focal point Ts~~ of the ultrasonic signal A0, B0 is used as a characteristic value that is set in relation to the detected reception time t_0. The chronological focal point T_s of the envelope curve 6 can, for example, be determined from the following equation:

Please amend the equation at page 7, line 29, as follows:

$$Ts \sim \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\hat{}} k * A(k) \right) / \sum_{k=1}^{\hat{}} A(k)$$

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, as follows:

where k is a running index that describes the number of positive half-waves of the ultrasonic signal after the threshold SW is exceeded. A(k) is the amplitude of the kth half-wave after the threshold (trigger time) is exceeded. T_s is the chronological focal point of envelope curve 6.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 8 as follows:

FIG. 7 shows the curve of the ~~signal~~ focal point T_s of envelope curve 6 as a function of the ratio of the threshold voltage U_{SW} ~~USW~~ to the signal amplitude

Amp. Whenever the amplitude Amp of the ultrasonic signal A0, B0 changes so intensely that the threshold USW is exceeded one signal period earlier or later, then a jump occurs in the signal T_s.